



January 5, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

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INSIDE

NEWS

CFC 2000 comes to a successful close

The Combined Federal Campaign 2000 came to an end Dec. 8 after reaching its goal for Marine Forces on Okinawa.

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NEWS

Marines return from deployment to East Timor

Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion returned to Okinawa recently after completing a three-month humanitarian mission in East Timor, where they performed construction projects that improved the quality of life for several hundred East Timorese.

see page 3 for more

FEATURE

III MEF takes a look back at the previous year

In this issue, commands recall the images and stories that combined to make the year 2000 a success for the Marines and Sailors assigned to the III Marine Expeditionary Force

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SPORTS

MCCS offers free-style wrestling on Okinawa

Semper Fit Athletics provides Marines and Sailors interested in wrestling an arena to exhibit their talents in the sport by sponsoring wrestling tournaments at Marine Corps bases on Okinawa.

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LEISURE

Tour visits Gyokusendo Kingdom Village

Explore caves and tropical orchards, witness traditional Okinawa craft-making and experience Eisa dancing on this cultural tour of the Gyokusendo Kingdom Village sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services.

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FORECAST

Today
high 62 low 57

Saturday
high 66 low 65

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high 74 low 69

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Base CG earns first star



LCPL JOSH VIERELA

BGen Willie J. Williams, Commanding General, MCB, smiles proudly after he receives his first star during his frocking ceremony Jan. 3 at Camp Foster.

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP FOSTER — BGen Willie J. Williams, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base and Deputy Commanding General, Marine Corps Bases Japan, was frocked to his present rank by LtGen Earl B. Hailston, Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Jan. 3 in a ceremony in front of the headquarters building here.

Frocking is when a Marine who is selected for promotion the next higher grade wears the uniform and uses the title of the new grade prior to the actual promotion date because of the responsibilities inherent to his or her billet.

BGen Williams said he felt anxiety and anticipation when selected for brigadier general.

"You quickly realize that this is a position loaded with responsibilities," BGen Williams said. "These are responsibilities that go beyond the office you're holding. There are institutional responsibilities, such as the health of the Corps, that come with this promotion. So, you're always anxious, always striding to ensure you live up to those responsibilities."

BGen Williams, whose billets encompass overseeing approximately 18,000 Marines and Sailors on nine camps and stations with 18 live-fire ranges and 27 training areas, believes his promotion will give him the opportunity to do more good for more people.

"I don't look at this as being about me," he said. "This thing is bigger than me. I just happened to be the one blessed to wear the rank."

The mission statement for Marine Corps Base requires it "to support the operating forces and others in accomplishing their missions in the Western Pacific." BGen Williams is taking that mission to heart.

From training support to quality of life issues, BGen Williams' responsibilities encompass the everyday lives of the Marines in Okinawa and mainland Japan.

"We're just getting ready to start in the development of the true vision for Marine Corps Base ... one that defines who we are, what we stand for and what we hope to look like," BGen Williams said.

In an effort to evaluate and possibly improve upon the capabilities and services provided by Marine Corps Base, BGen Williams recently chartered a Strategic Planning Committee.

"We're already collecting data by visiting with and talking to our customers," BGen Williams said.

After all the information is gathered, BGen Williams said the Strategic Planning Committee will spend three days behind closed doors to develop a detailed vision statement for Marine Corps Base.

"We are going to sit down and truly come to grips with what it is that Marine Corps Base is all about," he said. "My desire is that we will end up with a far-reaching vision that will cover all areas we are responsible for in support of the Marines,

PROMOTION, continued on page 3

"Off-limits" policy rescinded

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP BUTLER — The Okinawa Area Coordinator, LtGen Earl B. Hailston, announced that the US Forces on Okinawa have rescinded the midnight-to-5 a.m. "off-limits" policy for off-base establishments that serve alcohol, effective noon Jan. 5.

"The US military continues to make solid progress, and this, combined with the positive efforts of the Cooperative Working Team, has been instrumental in further reducing incidents and accidents involving SOFA

status personnel," noted LtGen Hailston. "Rescinding the off-limits policy is the right thing to do. It is a logical step to improve the liberty climate, without adversely affecting the economic livelihood of our Okinawan neighbors".

Also, as a result of recommendations received by the Working Team, the current Courtesy Patrols will be adjusted to later hours (midnight until 3 a.m.). The Courtesy Patrols will continue to provide leadership and guidance for service members in currently patrolled areas during those hours.

Marines return from East Timor

9th ESB personnel complete humanitarian mission at schools, orphanages in nation's capital

CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN — Twenty-nine Marines and a corpsman from 9th Engineer Support Battalion returned to Okinawa Dec. 18 following a three-month humanitarian mission to East Timor.

During the deployment, the Marines completed construction projects that improved the quality of life for several hundred East Timorese.

"We are always looking for these kinds of deployments," said LtCol Brian Hearnberger, Commanding Officer, 9th ESB, 3d Force Service Support Group. "This kind of peacetime engagement allows the combat engineers to use their skills doing construction, doing what they would do in the field, which helps them maintain their combat skills proficiency."

The Marines worked on orphanages, schools, medical clinics and other structures in and around Dili, the country's capital city.

"You can tell the Marines loved helping, in their hearts, especially seeing how they helped the community and the young kids," LtCol Hearnberger said.

Two projects the Marines worked on improved the lives of many children in the Dili area.

The Dinas Sosial Orphanage received new corrugated metal roof trusses and other structural improvements. As soon as the project was completed, 50 orphans had a new home.

The children moved in as soon as the project was finished, according to 1stSgt Howard Banks, First Sergeant, Company A, 9th ESB.

"We're definitely very proud of the work these Marines did," 1stSgt Banks said.

A second project that helped the children involved construction work on three schools. Laleia, Lifau and



LCpl Nicholas Chock, Heavy Equipment Operator, 9th ESB, 3d FSSG, greets his girlfriend, LCpl Melissa Boren, a combat engineer with 9th ESB, upon her return to Okinawa Dec. 18 following a three-month deployment to East Timor.

Bead schools, all in or near Dili, had new chairs, desks and blackboards in place when the Marines finished work on the school project Nov. 14. The project included frame and roof work, improving the structural soundness of each school.

Atauro Island Bridge, the only link between the island and its closest neighbors, received repairs. A local medical facility, Uma Moras Clinic, now has a new ceiling, freshly plastered and painted walls, and new window and door frames. Mosquito netting was installed to improve the overall sanitation of the facility.

"These Marines were hand-selected for this project," 1stSgt Banks said. "They were armed with 9mm pistols the whole time they were working. That was a big responsibility, especially for young Marines."

The country has been in the grip of violent conflict intermittently for the last 25 years. The pistols served as a force protection measure, 1stSgt Banks said.

When the returning detachment landed at Naha International Airport, some were met with hugs, kisses, flowers and a few tears of joy.

LCpl Nicholas Chock, Heavy Equipment Operator with Support Co., 9th ESB, didn't make the deployment, but his girlfriend, LCpl Melissa Boren, did.

"They didn't need my MOS this time around," Chock said as he waited for Boren, a Combat Engineer with 9th ESB.

With his arms tightly wrapped around Boren, LCpl Chock said, "She's the only Christmas present I wanted."

PROMOTION, continued from page 1 —

Sailors and families that live, play and work here."

BGen Williams said it is important that Marine Corps Base does not just have a garrison focus.

"We have to ensure that everything we do is focused on warfighting and readiness," BGen Williams said.

When the Strategic Planning Committee completes its vision statement, BGen Williams said his goal is to have the Marine Corps Base vision statement posted with individual objectives that support that mission.

"Every Marine, Sailor or civilian of Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler will be able to take their jobs and the things they do in support and tie it back to the vision," BGen Williams said. "If you ask them, they should be able to say how what they are doing connects to that overall vision. We realize this is a tough task, but each and every individual has to have an ownership piece, and they have to know how they connect."

In addition to his support to the III Marine Expeditionary Force, BGen Williams must also interact with the Japanese community and leaders.

"I've spent a total of eight years in Japan, with seven of them right here in Okinawa," BGen Williams said. "I really enjoy the Japanese and Okinawan communities. They are very gracious people and the more you get to know the people, you find that we are more alike than we are different."

BGen Williams said that the Marines are working together with the community in the true sense of neighborhood and cooperation.

"We have some great community involvement programs that we are doing," BGen Williams said. "And we will be doing more in the future."

CFC 2000 ends successfully on Okinawa

SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP BUTLER —

Marine forces on Okinawa reached the goal of 100 percent contact and raised more than \$552,000 in contributions as the Combined Federal Campaign 2000 came to a successful end Dec. 8.

"I'm extremely pleased with the effort the Marines put into this important campaign," said Bruce Hidaka-Gordon, Component Area Project Officer, Marine Forces Japan. "Donating more than half a million dollars is impressive, this donation will be one of the largest in this year's campaign."

A total of 8,701 Marines, Sailors and civilians on Okinawa contributed, surpassing last year's 7,721.

"I would like to thank and offer my sincere gratitude to everyone who made the 2000 CFC Fund Drive such a huge success," said BGen Willie J. Williams, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base. "You certainly went above and beyond supporting this worthy effort. People and causes the world over will benefit from your generosity and be better off because you cared."

As the final CFC donations trickle in, prepara-

Marine forces here surpass contact and contribution goals

tions for unit awards are being made.

Personal awards go to individuals who donated more than \$600,

according to Hidaka-Gordon.

"I was pleasantly surprised at the total number of personal awards being given out this year," Hidaka-Gordon said. "Those who earned the eagle and double eagle awards for donating \$600-\$999 and \$1,000 and over respectively, have truly made a world of difference to these deserving charities."

Units with \$120 per contributor and/or 60 percent participation receive a gold award, \$90 per contributor and/or 50 percent participation receive a silver and \$60 per contributor and/or 40 percent participation receive a bronze award, according to Hidaka-Gordon.

"So far we've found 20 units who have earned gold award, 21 units earned silver and 12 units will receive a bronze award for their contributions," Hidaka-Gordon said. "This year there have been more awards earned than in last year's campaign."

Personal awards will be distributed by unit representatives and unit awards will be presented during a ceremony in February.

3d MarDiv remains force in readiness

CPL MATTHEW E. HABIB
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY — From training in the steaming hot sun at the Jungle Warfare Training Center to the frozen winter landscapes of mainland Japan, 3d Marine Division has continued to prove itself a force-in-readiness.

Throughout the year, 3d MarDiv participated in various training exercises in Okinawa and other distant lands. In addition to providing the Marines with intense combat training in a foreign environment, the exercises helped the different units understand each other's operational procedures, as well as each other's cultures.

The Marines of 3d Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, traveled from Camp Lejeune, N.C., under the Unit Deployment Program and participated in the division's first large-scale exercise of the year, Forest Light 2000. The Marines of 3/2 visited Hokkaido, Japan, to engage in cold-weather training with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force. Together, the two forces worked to improve communications and further develop maneuverability in a bilateral combat environment.

"Familiarity is the goal of most of the training," said Cpl Jeremy Messerschmidt, Team Leader, 2nd Platoon, Company I, 3/2. "The Marines and our Japanese hosts' goal is to learn each other's basic tactics in a cold weather environment so we can operate smoothly



Cpls Tommy D. Strickland and Adam P. Rowley, Gunners, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 3d MarDiv, practice aiming the M240G machine gun at the Central Training Area.

during any real-life situation."

At the other end of the climate spectrum, the Marines of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment traveled to Ban Chan Khrem, Thailand, to participate in Exercise Cobra Gold 2000. Among the challenges of training in Thailand, the Marines had to overcome a language barrier in order to work effectively with their Thai counterparts.

"It was tough communicating with them, but after a few hours everyone started communicating with hand and arm signals," said LCpl Guillermo Negron, Marine Rifleman, Company C, 1/7.

Another challenge the Marines faced was the heat and oppressive humidity that engulfed the training area. Despite training in the sultry heat, the 1/7 Marines highlighted the operation with a joint live-fire exercise.

Once again, the neighboring units were able to witness each other operate and work together.

The

training also afforded each unit the opportunity to experience foreign cultures firsthand. During both exercises, Forest Light 2000 and Exercise Cobra Gold 2000, the locals from both locations invited the Marines into their homes, and shared meals and some good times with them.

The last training exercise of the year with the JGSDF was conducted by the Marines of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. Traveling from Camp Lejeune, N.C., also as part of the UDP, 1/6 participated in Exercise Keen Sword in Ojojihara, Japan.

Throughout Keen Sword, the Marines of 1/6 and soldiers of the 44th JGSDF Regiment participated in a wide array of field operations. However, warfare training, movement exercises, helicopter assault operations and firing demonstrations were the main highlights of the exercise.

The bilateral exercises are merely a handful of activities the 3d MarDiv Marines have participated in.

They also spent time helping local community members through various community relations projects throughout the year. Among them, Marines from 2d

Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment at Camp Schwab traveled to the Meijo University in Nago to help students develop their English skills.

"Most of these students have never spoken with an American before besides me," said Dr. Caroline C. Lantham, English Professor, Meijo University.

"It was really good to meet some Americans," said Taiichi Nosoko, a sophomore at Meijo. "I found out that we like a lot of the same things, like music and food. I think the Marines are pretty cool people," she said after the 2/7 Marines' visit at Meijo.

Away from Okinawa, 3d MarDiv Marines also helped with community projects. On mainland Japan in communities outside Camp Fuji, artillerymen with 3d Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment paused from their gunnery training to lend a hand at Yakanama Seibi Home and the Gotemba Colony.

"I think these type of projects are good for Marines. It shows that we have concerns other than training," said LCpl Andrew-Francis May, Cannoneer, 3/12, of his unit's clean-up assistance at the Gotemba Colony.

"The Marines were a big help and we thank them very much," said Sister Maria Kawashimo, of the Yakanama Seibi Home.

With their accomplishments during the previous year, 3d MarDiv Marines and Sailors have guaranteed their continued success and set the course for another year.



Marines from 3/2, 3d MarDiv., along with their Japanese counterparts from 5th Infantry Division, Northern Army, begin a 15-kilometer ski march during Exercise Forest Light in Hokkaido, Japan.

GYSGT ANDREW LYNCH

Ads page

Ads page

3d FSSG ends high tempo year

SSGT JASON M. WEBB
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP KINSER — The Marines and Sailors of 3d Force Service Support Group know all too well what high operational tempo means after a deployment-filled year.

The year 2000 came and went as 3d FSSG remained the foremost supporting element for III Marine Expeditionary Force while maintaining its combat service support readiness.

Even though the operational tempo remained high for the approximately 5,100 Marines and Sailors who keep combat service support functional. Their task was the same whether on deployment or in garrison. Intermediate level maintenance, supply support, transportation landing support operations, automated data processing, disbursing, legal services, medical and dental care and engineer support were some of the highlighted services provided to III MEF activities.

In support of III MEF deployments throughout the Pacific theater, the group participated in various exercises such as Cobra Gold 2000 in Thailand, Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training. Landing Force CARAT involved bilateral training in seven countries. Third FSSG also supported three separate exercises on the Korean peninsula -- Ulchi Focus Lens, Korean Incremental Training Program and Reception Staging Onward Movement and Integration.

In addition to the larger exercises, 3d FSSG Marines also participated in several artillery live-fire sustainment-training exercises on mainland Japan.

Even though the operational tempo increased in the last year, 3d FSSG plans on continuing its expeditious pace in the year 2001.

According to Maj John R. Gambrino, G-3 Plans Officer, H&S Battalion, 3d FSSG, one of the highlights of 2001 will be a deployment schedule encompassing exercise Cobra Gold 2001, Balikitan in the Philippines and exercises Freedom Banner and Tandem Thrust in Australia. All four are combined under an exercise dubbed Team Challenge.

"3d FSSG will be challenged with the highest op-tempo in recent years with Team Challenge and other concurrent exercises," said Maj Gambrino.

Another role will be the continued development of the Marine Logistics Command in the Korea theater and the always busy Logistics Movement Coordination Center here.

"We coordinate anything that moves in and out of Okinawa, whether by air, land or sea," Maj Gambrino added. "We will continue to lead the way to perform operational level logistics."



CPL MICHAEL O. FOLEY

Cpl Adam R. Eklund, Test Measurement Diagnostic Repair Technician, 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, disassembles a frequency counter in order to repair it.



LANCE CPL. KATHY J. ARNDT

GySgt Jim R. Gearheart, Staff Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge of Support Platoon, 3d MRB, listens to directions from the rappel master before fast roping.



CPL JEFF WOMACK

LCpl Darrian M. Nelson, Switchboard Operator, CSSD-34, learns a little bit of the Thai language as he receives some assistance from a Thai child at the Pattaya Orphanage during Cobra Gold 2000.



CPL JEFF WOMACK

Sgt H. Bryan Vega, Warehouse Chief, and LCpl Dante Anderson, Supply Clerk, Combat Service Support Detachment-34, haul coiled barbed wire out of a container during Cobra Gold 2000.

NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for Dec. 10-16.

• Underage drinking

Four Privates First Class with 3d Transportation Support Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, were found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$263 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Underage drinking

A Private First Class with 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d FSSG, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$500 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Drunk and disorderly

A Lance Corporal with 3d Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3d FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of drunk and disorderly. Punishment: forfeiture of \$585 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 30 days.

• Underage drinking

A Lance Corporal with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 3d FSSG, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$563 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Underage drinking

A Private First Class with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3d FSSG, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$263 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Underage drinking

Four Lance Corporals with 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division, were found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$273 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Drunk and disorderly

A Lance Corporal with 12th Marines, 3d MarDiv, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$502 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Underage drinking, disrespect to NCO

A Private with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking and disrespect towards a noncommissioned officer. Punishment: forfeiture of \$465 per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.

• Underage drinking

A Lance Corporal with H&S Battalion, MCB, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: forfeiture of \$294 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Underage drinking

A Corporal with 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$630 per month for two months and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

COURTS MARTIAL

The following are Courts Martial for December.

• A Private First Class assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 3d Marine Division, was sentenced to four months confinement, reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$670 per month for four months and a bad conduct discharge at a special court-martial on two specifications of article 120, carnal knowledge.



SGT NATHAN L. HANKS

LINKS graduates

Theresa M. Cox was among 10 military spouses who were presented certificates of participation and identification tags by MajGen Wallace C. Gregson, Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, when they graduated from a three-day Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills Program course at Camp Courtney LINKS Office Dec. 8. The course is opened to all Marine Corps spouses and covers various topics such as medical and dental benefits, deployments, Marine Corps history and investing in the community.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New gate at Lester

An additional gate at Camp Lester will open Jan. 8 that will allow access to the Kuwae Lodge.

The current road to Kuwae Lodge will close Jan. 10. Traffic can gain access to Kuwae Lodge and associated areas of Camp Lester through the gate located on the roadway used to gain entry to the Chatan City Hall.

Signs are posted at Camp Lester's Gate 2 entrance and along the Chatan City Hall road to help motorists locate Camp Lester's new gate.

Commissary to offer scholarship

The focus is on education at the Defense Commissary Agency. A new program offers a scholarship of \$1,500 or more to a college-bound military child at installations served by a commissary. More than one scholarship may be awarded at larger stores.

Students who are interested in applying for the Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation Scholarships For Military Children can stop by their local commissary to pick up an application. Completed applications must be returned to the commissary prior to Feb. 15. Applications are also available for download from the DeCA website at www.commissaries.com.

The scholarships are open to qualified sons and daughters of U.S. military identification card holders to include active duty, retirees and guard/reserves.

Students must have a 3.0 grade point average to qualify and write a short essay on "What Being a Military Dependent Means to Me." Students currently attending college are also eligible. Recipients will be notified by April 30.

Air Conditioning/Heating Policy

The time of year when the A/C systems serving family housing are deactivated is here. The 18th Wing Guidance on Conservation of Utilities outlines the criteria for activating and deactivating air-conditioning and heating systems serving family housing unit on Okinawa. The policy calls for:

Air Conditioning:

Activation — A/C can be activated/authorized when the daily high temperature average for 5 consecutive days is 24 degrees Celsius or above. A/C shall begin no later than April 15.

Deactivation — A/C can be deactivated when the daily high temperature average for seven consecutive days is below 24 degrees Celsius. A/C deactivation shall begin no later than Dec. 15.

Heating:

Activation — If the daily low temperature average for seven consecutive days is below 15 degrees Celsius, the Civil Engineer Group commander can authorize heat activation. Heat activation shall begin no later than Jan. 5.

Deactivation — If the daily low temperature for a period of five consecutive days is 15 degrees Celsius or above, the CEG commander can authorize heat deactivation. Heat deactivation shall begin no later than March 15.

For questions or concerns please call the Kadena Military Family Housing Customer Service at 634-0582 or 634-0583.

To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

Suggestions improve Corps

SGTMAJ STEPHEN H. MELLINGER
MARINE FORCES PACIFIC SERGEANT MAJOR



Every August, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps hosts a 10-day Sergeants Major Symposium for those of us who work for a general officer. Collectively, we discuss critical issues and concerns that may particularly affect Marines in specific geographical areas, bases or stations, duty assignments and the Corps as a whole.

There's not a topic too big or small for discussion at this symposium so long as the intent of an agenda item is to better the Corps, Marines and/or their families.

It takes a majority in agreement for a given agenda item to "stay on the table." On the last day of the symposium, the selected agenda items are presented to the Commandant as recommended changes.

Where do the agenda items come from that are presented and discussed at these symposiums? Any Marine may submit his or her recommendation(s) through their chain of command. The command sergeants major review and select which agenda items (from their command) will be forwarded to the symposium for consideration.

Unfortunately, most generated agenda items are from us old guys, the sergeants major, and not from more junior Marines from around the Corps.

No matter how much we fossils feel that we always know the best way to build the mousetrap, the fact of the matter is, we do not! I'm a firm believer in the old saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention." And that, to me, equates to Marines who perform the work or run the equipment are the "duty experts" best qualified to make recommendations to improve how they do things.

I would like to see all of you put your thoughts and suggestions on paper as agenda items and pass them on to your sergeant major for the annual symposium. Collectively, we need to take an active roll in innovative thinking – thinking outside the box, as they say, to find ways to work smarter, not harder. Where would we be if men such as Thomas Edison or Henry Ford stopped short of acting on their ideas?

As I speak with Marines (all enlisted ranks) throughout the Corps, I'm amazed at their keen insight on matters far above their pay grade of concern. There isn't a Marine on active duty that isn't capable of generating positive suggestions to improve one thing or another within our great Corps. A thought kept to one-

self is a waste of energy between the ears.

Here's an example of how one Marine's suggestion affected change for all Marines. About five years ago a Marine who was 72 1/2" tall weighed in at 207 pounds. At that time, the weight control order dealt with exact inches in determining everyone's height/weight standard. It left it up to the discretion of the command to address degrees of inches and how to deal with Marines who were unfortunate enough not to end their growing years in exact inches. This created a problem for every command having to make their own policy on dealing with Marines whose height was not in exact inches and very close to their max weight. In this case, if the command policy were to hold this Marine to the 72" maximum authorized weight of 203 pounds, he would be considered overweight four pounds and placed on weight control. A different command, that had a little more touchy-feely policy, would deal with this same Marine by considering his height to be 73" and within weight standards by two pounds. In both cases, each command was right in what it did.

The problem was that there was no consistency from one command to the next, as there was not a Marine Corps wide policy on this. And one thing we Marines like to be is consistent.

The idea struck me then that the Marine Corps needed to have a policy that addressed this issue so we could work from the same sheet of music. It took me about 10 minutes to put my thoughts on paper and submit them as an agenda item for that year's Sergeants Major Symposium.

The end result was that by the end of that calendar year the weight control order was modified to address Marines whose height was not in exact inches. I suspect many Marines, since then, who are near their max-weight, appreciate that particular change. Our commandant wants every Marine with a good idea to share it for the betterment of all the Corps.

Within the next few months, we will gear up for this year's Sergeants Major Symposium. To prepare for this, the major command sergeants major will be soliciting agenda items from within their commands on ways to better our Corps.

There is no greater feeling of personal pride than to have been part of real change for the benefit of all. It would be nice this year if our biggest problem were sorting through too many great ideas from the Marines within MarForPac.

If you want change, then you have to be willing to exert a little energy and brain-power to influence change. When your sergeants major solicit ideas this year, overwhelm them with your great ideas!

A new year, a new look

GYSGT MATTHEW M. HEVEZI
CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Welcome to the new year and a new look for *The Okinawa Marine*. Readers will notice some significant changes to the paper. Our size has been reduced and we have added color to our inside pages. Our front page has also been reworked, as have some of our pages inside. The changes that have been made were done with you, the reader, in mind. Our goal is to make your base newspaper a product that is easy to read, informative and entertaining.

Our Street Talk column has been replaced with a new feature called What Would You Do? It is designed to bring important leadership issues out for consideration and discussion by those who are most affected by the issues examined. Chaplains will mediate the responses and give their best advice on how some of these issues can be handled by those who may find themselves faced with some tough ethical decisions.

The Okinawa Marine staff will continue to work hard to find and report the type of news you can use. We will strive to report accurately and fairly.

Looking back, the past year has been a busy one on Okinawa. President Clinton's visit during the Group of Eight Summit was a huge event for the military community who came together to greet the commander in chief.

Another significant event in the region was the North Korea and South Korea Summit. Although still developing, the situation on the Korean Peninsula looks to be moving in a positive direction.

No matter what changes take place in our region in the months and years ahead, Marines who report to Okinawa for duty will be found doing what they do best, maintaining their combat edge in the event they are called to action. And we'll have a Marine combat correspondent, notepad and camera in hand, by their side to capture their story and bring it back to share with you on the pages of *The Okinawa Marine*.

What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Barracks Courtesy

It is 11:50 p.m. on Wednesday and you are an extremely tired Lance Corporal trying to get some sleep in your not so quiet BEQ. Down the hall there is an enormous-sized Corporal who has his stereo blaring country music. You asked the Corporal over an hour ago to turn it down. You couldn't quite hear everything he said, but it had something to do with "pounding sand."

Your roommate solved the problem by shoving in some earplugs and going to sleep with a pillow over his head.

You debate calling the duty, but remember that the Corporal is a good friend with your squad leader, so you don't want to turn him in.

Unfortunately, your squad leader is home on leave and there is no other NCO for you to turn to for help.

It wouldn't be so bad, but you have your PFT tomorrow. What do you do?

What the Marines said

Lance Corporal with MCB: It's probably not the right thing to do, but I would go down the hallway with at least one other annoyed Marine and pound on the door until he let us in. Then I would kick his speakers in.

Private First Class with 1st MAW: I'd just borrow some earplugs from my roommate and put my head under my pillow, too.

Private First Class 3d MarDiv: I'd probably try talking to him again. Let him know I'm going to the duty, but I'd probably back down and end up sleeping on somebody's floor further down the hall.

What the Chaplain said

Being a friend of your squad leader doesn't exempt the Corporal from the responsibilities of an NCO. As a Corporal he has the obligation to see to it that good order and discipline be fostered in the barracks. If he can't accept and carry out that responsibility, then he shouldn't carry the rank. Good order and discipline is also a part of your responsibility. You try one more time to convince the Corporal to turn his music down. If he still refuses, then you call the duty. I would hope that the duty will, also, give him at least one chance to turn the volume down before anything official were to happen.

- LT William T. Shuppert, Deputy Chaplain, MCB

ON THE TIP OF THE SPEAR



III Marine Expeditionary Force guides Marines, Sailors through another year

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP COURTNEY — Marines and Sailors assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force continued to provide a strong blanket of security and stability throughout the Western Pacific during the year 2000.

Commanded by LtGen Earl B. Hailston, III MEF is powered by more than 24,000 Marines and Sailors in Japan and Hawaii, who, throughout the year, remained ready to respond to any call to duty.

The major subordinate commands of III MEF include the 3d Marine Division, headquartered at Camp Courtney; the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, headquartered at Camp Foster; the 3d

Force Service Support Group, headquartered at Camp Kinser and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit is headquartered at Camp Hansen. The III MEF command element is headquartered at Camp Courtney.

Throughout the year, III MEF command element and subordinate units deployed personnel to train in their missions alongside service members in nations throughout the region. There were 75 exercises during 2000 in which III MEF members participated. The larger exercises included Cobra Gold, in Thailand; Balikatan, in the Republic of the Philippines; and Foal Eagle and Ulchi Focus Lens, both in the Republic of Korea.

The Corps' new close combat

course, the Marine Martial Arts Program, was introduced to III MEF during 2000. Also during this year, the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade command element was activated.

"Our Marines, Sailors, civilians and families who comprise and supported the III MEF commands throughout the past year did a superb job," said LtGen Hailston. "I'm extremely proud of what they have accomplished together, from supporting USGET to supporting the G-8 Summit and Presidential visit.

"They served outstandingly here, far away from their stateside family and friends, and they did so as great ambassadors for their country. I expect the III MEF team to continue into 2001 with the same dedication to mission, and the same high level of achievement, that I have seen in the tremendous year just ended."



President Bill Clinton, who was on the island to take part in the Group of Eight Summit in July, gives a speech at Camp Foster to service members, civilians and family members, expressing his gratitude and praise for those serving in the military.





A landing craft air cushion races toward Ternate Beach in the Republic of the Philippines to deliver troops and supplies during a combined amphibious landing for Balikatan 2000.



SSGT JASON J. BORTZ

Marines from Company K, Ground Combat Element, Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training, perform house-to-house movement through Combat Town on Camp Hansen as part of the work up for LF CARAT 2000.



LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT



SGT JOHN G. VANUCCI

Cpl Mikel P. Graff Jr., a Mechanic assigned to Combat Service Support Platoon, Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training, III Marine Expeditionary Force, passes out candy to children at a grammar school that the Marines and Sailors of CARAT were restoring as part of their community relations effort in Subic Bay, Philippines. Landing Force CARAT is a four-month deployment that displays U.S. presence throughout Southeast Asia and allows U.S. Marines and Sailors to train with foreign militaries.

Flying high

As the sun sets at the Futenma Flightline Fair Oct. 7-8, Maj Joseph G. Dennison of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron-1 looks into the cockpit of an F-18 Hornet.

LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA

Increased deployments, exercises made 2000 a busy year for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing personnel

SGT JASON S. SCHAAP
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP BUTLER – As the Air Combat Element of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing is accustomed to a busy schedule. The year 2000 was no different.

Actually, it was busier than normal, according to Col Richard W. Lueking, Operations Officer, 1st MAW.

More than 25 1st MAW units participated in 16 major exercises throughout the Western Pacific this past year, including major roles in Exercises Foal Eagle in Korea, Cobra Gold in Thailand, Southern Frontier in Australia, Millennium Edge in Misawa and Cope North in Atsugi.

Expanding its usual Pacific schedule, 1st MAW increased its operational tempo beyond the prior year with major deployments to Guam and its own extensive operational readiness exercise.

Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron-121 and Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron-4 deployed to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam in December, marking the

first time 1st MAW units made a major deployment to Guam, according to Lueking.

“The squadrons (will be) able to utilize the extensive airspace and air-to-ground ranges available for training (in Guam),” Col Lueking said about the deployment, which continues into January.

Other 1st MAW units also had the chance to deploy to Guam in December for an operational readiness exercise designed to “exercise the full spectrum of 1st MAW capabilities,” Lueking said. The exercise also took place in and around Iwakuni, Japan, and Okinawa.

“(We want to) enhance operational readiness by exercising 1st MAW unit capabilities in realistic settings and missions and doing so safely,” Col Lueking said.

Besides more readiness exercises, Col Lueking said 1st MAW plans to continue to add to its schedule by participating with a role in this year’s Operation Tandem Thrust in Australia.

1st MAW personnel were especially busy during October as they supported the annual Flightline Fair held by Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. More than 20,000 at-



SSGT JASON M. WEBB

Two AH-1W Super Cobras from HMLA-367 “Scarface,” a UDP unit from Camp Pendleton, make history as they proceed along the Okinawa coast. They completed their last remaining hour of flight Sept. 1 to complete 40,000 mishap-free flight hours.

tended the event which opens up Futenma’s gates each year to the Okinawa community and provides a close look at many aircraft used by 1st MAW Marines.

“Okinawans see these things flying over them all the time,” said Capt Allen L. Gilbert, CH-46 Helicopter Pilot, Marine Medium Helicopter

Squadron-265. “(The Flightline Fair) is a great chance for them to learn more about our equipment and become more acquainted with it.”

There are more than 6,500 Marines assigned to 1st MAW, including 3,809 Marines in Okinawa, 1,869 in Iwakuni, and 992 in Hawaii.

MCB continues support of III MEF

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

CAMP BUTLER — The year proved another success story for Marine Corps Base personnel, supporting everything from serving 14,000 meals a day in its messhalls to a visit by President Clinton.

The MCB team provides operating forces service and support to assist mission accomplishment and improve quality of life to service members and their families.

"The personnel of Marine Corps Base have done an exceptional job this year supporting III MEF and improving quality of life for service members and their families," said BGen Willie J. Williams, Commanding General, MCB. "A highlight of their outstanding service was the G-8 Summit and President Clinton's visit to Camp Foster. Marine Corps Base personnel were instrumental in ensuring the success of these events."

Clinton's July visit during the Group of Eight Summit was the year's highlight, but was only one of many MCB accomplishments.

The base postal system served as the official test bed for a model post office concept for the Department of Defense, according to Col Richard Mingo, Assistant Chief of Staff for Manpower, MCB. This program brought all the best aspects of the United States Postal Service technology and business practices to Okinawa.

"Facilities were remodeled and improved with modern conveyor systems for processing mail, computerized accountable mail equipment for tracking parcels and customer friendly service lobbies with all the conveniences of a state-side United States Post Office," Col Mingo said. "Additionally, state-of-the-art retail processing equipment was installed with up-to-date payment options of debit/credit card acceptance resulting in a 50 percent increase in mail processing efficiency."

Recognizing the need to provide services to Marines, Sailors and family members applying for U.S. citizenship, MCB established a naturalization assistance office. "With more than 1,000 active duty Marines and 2,000 family members who are not U.S. citizens, the naturalization assistance office has helped simplify a naturalization process that is lengthy and confusing," Col Mingo said.

Communications and Information Technologies Division personnel converted 56 buildings from 30-year-old telecommunications technology to current standards, keeping pace with the latest telecommunications and information technology. An Integrated Digital Telephone System was installed, providing improved quality and expanded capabilities with 30,000 customers and up to 100,000 phone lines. The old system could only service 8,200 customers, according to Master GySgt Phillip E. Nolan, Operations Branch Chief, G-6, MCB.

"Accomplishing the mission of MCB has not been without challenges."

— BGen Willie J. Williams



MajGen (select) Gary H. Hughey accepts the colors from SgtMaj Felipe Pinon, Base Sergeant Major, before passing it on to BGen (select) Willie J. Williams during the Marine Corps Base change of command ceremony held July 28 at the Camp Foster Field House.

Base computer experts also launched an aggressive reorganization of the Corps' Okinawa computer network, GySgt Nolan said. The size and significance of the base network rivals most commercial business networks and is presently the largest of its kind in the Corps. "High technology is quickly becoming a very important part of the way the Marine Corps does business," GySgt Nolan said.

Throughout the year, MCB has made significant strides in safety awareness, according to Capt Brian C. Anderson, Plans and Operations Officer, Logistics Division, MCB.

"Whether educating and licensing new drivers to the unique driving challenges associated with Okinawa or certifying ranges throughout the Western Pacific, MCB Safety has been worthy of emulation," Capt Anderson said. "Through the new MCB safety programs, a message has been sent to all, including our Okinawan neighbors, safety is paramount and will not be compromised."

"So much so, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps directed that Safety be established at the assistant chief of staff level throughout the Marine Corps," Capt Anderson said. "The Safety Branch became its own staff section Oct. 16, 2000."

With the safety of service members and their families in mind, MCB held two force protection exercises this year

to test its ability to protect against and respond to terrorism. During the exercises, the Base Emergency Operations Center, which was established in 1999, tested its abilities, according to LtCol Harry W. Farmer, Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations and Training Division, MCB.

"The Base Emergency Operations Center was also activated during the Group of Eight Summit," LtCol Farmer said. "The result of the force protection exercises conducted earlier was a credible, viable operations center which monitored and directed Marine Corps activities during the Summit."

As MCB ensured the safety of its personnel and their families, it also took steps to improve their quality of life.

Housing families and personnel continues to be top priority. State-of-the-art bachelor quarters were occupied in Camps Schwab and Hansen implementing the 'Whole Room Concept,' a program that provides special furniture and accessories for the rooms, according to Facilities Maintenance Office officials.

In addition to improving the quality of life for military personnel and their families, MCB personnel have reached out to Okinawans with more than 60 community relations events and projects each month, according to Lucy Gushiken, Acting Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Community Policy, Planning and Liaison Office, MCB.

As MCB begins a new year, its personnel will continue to strive to meet the unique challenges associated with being located on Okinawa, and being



Fire Fighters from Marine Corps Base, Camp Foster, carry a wounded civilian out of a housing building during a mock evacuation and mass casualties exercise.

the "fifth element" of the corps' only forward-deployed Marine Expeditionary Force.

"Accomplishing the mission of MCB has not been without challenges," BGen Williams said. "Base Marines and Sailors put forth a tremendous amount of hard work during their tours here on Okinawa. For many of them it is their first duty station after boot camp and their MOS school, which makes it very difficult to stay focused while being so far away from home. What makes base successful at supporting the operating forces is that the Marines and Sailors stay focused on the mission. They work very hard at supporting the units and making quality of life improvements. I'm very proud of them."

Leading from the front



Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable, celebrate the 225th Marine Corps birthday on the flight deck of *USS Essex*.

PHOTOS BY SGT BRYCE R. PIPER

Intense, rewarding year closes for 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit

SGT BRYCE R. PIPER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN — Training and a real-world operations kept the Corps' only permanently forward-deployed Marine Expeditionary Unit on its toes in 2000.

Portions of the MEU deployed to East Timor in January aboard *USS Juneau* as Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force East Timor. Elements included Company G, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, the MEU's Battalion Landing Team; portions of the Command Element; and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265, the MEU's former Aviation Combat Element; and MEU Service Support Group-31.

In East Timor, the Marines and Sailors supported the transition from the Australian-led International Forces in East Timor to the new United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor. They assisted initial efforts to rebuild the war-torn area, moving tons of construction supplies, transporting 15,000 pounds of food to remote areas, and flying approximately 75 displaced persons with 10,000 pounds of their belongings back to their homes.

Following the operation, they conducted a massive community relations project in Cebu, Philippines, bringing approximately 20,000 pounds of donated toys, clothing and textbooks to support charities there.

The intense training schedule continued for the MEU during this time, with the Marines and Sailors conducting Training in Urban Environment Exercise in Guam, various MEU and Amphibious Ready Group exercises in and around Okinawa, and finally earning their Special Operations Capable qualification in March. April saw the Marines conduct-

ing another training exercise in Guam to complete planning, reconnaissance, surveillance and communications in preparation to conduct Long Range Raids up to 2,400 miles away.

Exercise Cobra Gold in May saw the MEU maximizing its training opportunities in Thailand, conducting interoperability training with the Royal Thai Marine Corps. Thai and MEU Marines held a 48-hour-long day and night live-fire exercise, participated in the first-ever U.S. Army, Marine Corps and Royal Thai combined Noncombatant Evacuation Operation, and assaulted the beach in Cobra Gold's coup-de-grace, the Combined Arms Landing Forces Exercise.

Approximately 20 Marines from the MEU Command Element also flew to the American Embassy Bangkok, giving them first-hand knowledge of a typical embassy compound and how they can meet the needs of an embassy in a crisis situation.

During President Clinton's visit to Okinawa in July, the commander in chief awarded the MEU a Meritorious Unit Commendation for the Marines' hard work and dedication during Operation Desert Fox in the Middle East and Operation Stabilise in East Timor.

Also in July, the MEU welcomed a new Ground Combat Element, Battalion Landing Team 2/4, and a new Aviation Combat Element, HMM-262, beginning a new training cycle.

After conducting successful TRUEX, MEUEX and ARG training, the Marines once again earned their SOC title in October, this time aboard the ARG's new flagship, *USS Essex*.

With only a brief respite after the grueling SOCEX, the Marines set sail aboard the ARG to the Republic of Korea to participate in Exercise Foal Eagle 2000. In Korea, the Marines and Sailors con-



LCpl Kevin R. Smith, Weapons Co., 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, fires the M47 Dragon missile system during Exercise Cobra Gold 2000 in Thailand.

ducted a Quick Reaction Force exercise, various joint and combined live-fire exercises, a combined amphibious assault, and a field training exercise. They worked firsthand with Korean Marines when the *Essex* and *USS Fort McHenry* hosted approximately 150 ROK Marines for about a week.

Finally, missing no opportunity to do some good, approximately 200 Marines and Sailors cleaned up tons of construction trash and scaffolding at a halted construction project at a Pohang hospital in a community project there that lasted several days.

Marines aboard *Ft. McHenry* celebrated the 225th Marine Corps birthday in Guam with retired Marines of the 3d Marine Division Association, while those aboard the *Essex* held a ceremony on the ship's flight deck in Hong Kong Harbor. Afterwards, Marines and Sailors from the *Essex* held yet another community project, volunteering to support an international relief charity there.

Highlighting the year, MEU Marines and Sailors beam with pride over two real-life heroes, 1stLt Errol L. Manor and Seaman Scott D. Roth.

Manor used training he learned in the Marine Corps, applying the Heimlich maneuver to a choking Okinawa boy, saving the child's life at Comprehensive Park in August.

While on liberty, Seaman Roth saved a local woman's foot from amputation in Sasebo last October when he removed a tourniquet locals had put on the bleeding woman and applied proper first aid before seeing her off to a hospital.

With another operationally intense year behind them, the Marines and Sailors of the MEU took a well-deserved rest during the holiday season.

The break will be short-lived, however, as 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, rotates to the MEU as its new Ground Combat Element, and HMM-265 comes back aboard as the Aviation Combat Element this month.

Luke Opp (left) and Michael Mitchell practice wrestling moves in the "mat room" of the Camp Schwab gym.



PHOTOS BY CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

Wrestling issues

Semper Fit takes Marines to the mat, providing a free-style arena with competitive tournaments

CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Athletes wishing to stay active in their favorite sport can do it here through recreational leagues and tournaments.

Semper Fit athletics provides free-style wrestlers with just such an arena for their wrestling talents by sponsoring wrestling tournaments at the Marine Corps bases on Okinawa.

Luke Opp, a Marine corporal, leaves Okinawa this month after competing in two wrestling tournaments and renewing his determination to stay active in the sport.

Opp who has nearly 15 years of wrestling experience, said he had pretty much given up the idea of seriously competing in free-style wrestling after high school.

"There are free-style wrestling leagues and teams in the States," Opp said. "But these are athletes practically born and raised to do nothing but wrestle. You have to be good and to be good at wrestling, you have to have the chance to wrestle. There is only so much training you can do on your own."

The 21-year-old from Columbia Falls, Montana competed in a free-style tournament Oct. 14 at Camp Schwab. He took 4th place in the 167.5-pound weight class.

He competed again on Oct. 27 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, taking 3rd place in the same weight class.

Opp said the many good competitors here on Okinawa boosted his desire to

get back into a sport he loves.

"There were more than a 100 guys at the Futenma tournament," Opp said. "All the energy reminded me how much I missed getting out on the mat."

Now that the Semper Fit tourneys have gotten Opp back to the mat, he has grabbed fellow Marine and training partner, Michael Mitchell, and returned to intense training.

"Training for us involves a lot of shadow drills, cardio training and just wrestling," Mitchell said. "He's helping me get ready for a tournament on Camp Foster."

Both Marines agree that successful wrestlers,

much like successful Marines, are mentally tough.

"You don't necessarily have to be the biggest or the strongest to succeed as a wrestler," Opp said. "You need to be the smartest. It takes knowing the moves and knowing how and when to use them to win at wrestling."

While sharing time on the mat, the Marines said they have developed similar styles and share the same favorite move.

"In free-style wrestling, tosses are allowed," Mitchell said. "We both like to use the fireman's carry."

Combined, Opp and Mitchell have more than 20 years of wrestling experience.

As Opp prepares to leave Okinawa with his love for wrestling re-ignited, he has done some research on wrestling competition in the States.

"There are teams competing around the world," Opp said. "I'd like to get on the Sunkist Kids team after the Marine Corps, but I am definitely appreciative of the opportunity the Marine Corps gave me to stay active in wrestling while I was deployed here."

The sparring duo describe wrestling as an "all you" sport. While they work together to prepare, it's the individual who wins or loses on the mat.

"Wrestling translates to real life because you can't just quit when you get tired," Mitchell said. "Wrestling demands that you leave your heart and pride on the mat."

For more information about Semper Fit wrestling tournaments call the Camp Foster Field House at 645-3985 or Semper Fit at 636-2674.



Luke Opp slings Michael Mitchell over his shoulders as the two prepare for an upcoming wrestling tournament.

Next stop: Adventure



Cindy McGarvie and her daughter Natasha ride the escalator out of Gyokusendo Cave which brings them to the Gyokusendo Kingdom Village.

Gyokusendo Kingdom Village tour provides chance to explore and experience Okinawa traditions

LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

ITOMAN CITY — Light decreases on the damp descent into a deep cavernous hole. The faint noise of gently flowing water echoes off the walls as you travel underground in a primordial cave.

Exploring a cave is just one of the things you experience during the Gyokusendo Kingdom Village tour.

The tour allows service members and their family members to see Okinawan culture and its subterranean features.

A five-kilometer long cave, which is the second largest cave in Japan, offers approximately 890 square meters of viewable cave area to the public, according to Keri Sampson, tour guide, Marine Corps Community Services.

During the trip through the cave, visitors see natural limestone sculptures such as the Golden Cup, Bell of the Rising Dragon, Gathered Drapes and the Speared Ceiling, all of which are stalagmite and stalactite formations.

After visitors explore the cave, they emerge into the village's Tropical Orchards. The orchards are home to 450 types of tropical trees and more than 100 kinds of fruit plants, such as mango, papaya and durian.

Stepping out from the orchards, visi-

tors are delivered to the heart of the village where Okinawans demonstrate a variety of crafts and trades, such as glass blowing at the Ryukyu Glass Company factory, traditional Okinawan pottery, indigo dying, paper making and a working brewery where they make habu awamori.

Other sites to experience in the village are Eisa dancing, the Kingdom Village Restaurant, a replica Ryukyuan trade vessel and the Kingdom Village shopping center.

During the Gyokusendo Kingdom Village Tour, visitors can see the Himeyuri Peace Museum. This is a memorial to the 219 students and teachers who served in the Haeburu Army Field Hospital during WWII.

"I feel it is my job to help service members understand the culture here," said Sampson.

"I recommend that people come on tours so that they can get a good taste of the culture, besides it's pretty fun too," said Jeremiah L. Passmore, tour member.

A full pass, which includes a trip through the cave, Kingdom Village and Habu Park costs 1,600 yen for adults and 800 for children. Gyokusendo Kingdom Village tours are also offered through MCCA. For information call 646-3502.



The Eisa Dancers at the Gyokusendo Kingdom Village get the crowd involved by beating their drums.



Habu snakes at the Gyokusendo Kingdom Village brewery are used in the famous Okinawan habu awamori.



PHOTOS BY LCPL JOSH P. VIERELA

Seven-year-old Alexander Meyer looks over the railing in the Gyokusendo Cave at the different stalagmites and stalactites which formed over many thousands of years.



AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

1997 Yamaha Banshee — \$3,000. Curtis, 637-3939.
 1990 Nissan NX — JCI Oct 01, \$2,100 OBO. 622-5370.
 1986 Toyota Corona — JCI Aug 01, \$400. 1988 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jul 01, \$1,500. Piper, 623-6611.
 1999 Harley Davidson Sportster — \$10,000. 623-5261.
 1978 Honda Super Sport — JCI Dec 02, \$2,000 OBO. 622-8272.
 1988 Nissan Laurel — JCI Aug 01, \$750. Mack, 090-1945-7146.
 1987 Toyota Surf — JCI Jun 02, \$3,500 OBO. Mandie, 637-5167.
 1988 Nissan Skyline — JCI Jul 02, \$1,100 OBO. Manny, 646-4446.
 1988 Toyota Supra — JCI Mar 01, \$1,900 OBO. 090-3790-7537.
 1989 Toyota Corina — JCI Oct 01, \$1,400 OBO. Dave, 637-2410.
 1994 Honda Manga — \$2,500. Steve, 623-6028.
 1988 Nissan Terrano — JCI Apr 02, \$4,000. Wendy, 897-2710.
 1989 Honda Hurricane — \$1,900 OBO. 637-3898 or 637-1477.
 1989 Nissan Silvia — JCI Mar 02, \$2,000 OBO. Mike, 646-8578.
 1991 Toyota Trueno — JCI Jul 02, \$2,500 OBO. 646-6056.
 1989 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jan 03, \$2,900 OBO. 646-6767.
 1989 Nissan Langley — JCI May 01, \$500 OBO. 636-3420.
 1988 Honda Legend — JCI Jan 02, \$2,000 OBO. 637-5003.
 1985 Yamaha Maxi — JCI Dec 02, \$3,000 OBO. Louis, 646-4511.
 1988 Toyota Carina — JCI Jul 01, \$1,300 OBO. Jesse, 646-4292.
 1991 Toyota 4Runner — JCI Apr 02, \$5,500 OBO. Don, 637-6915.
 1994 Honda Civic — JCI Feb 02, \$3,500. 646-2987.
 1990 Toyota Carina — JCI Oct 01, \$1,500 OBO. 090-890-0730.
 1989 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Dec 02, \$3,450. 090-3196-2087.
 1986 Nissan Sunny — JCI Nov 01, \$700 OBO. 636-2429.
 1989 Nissan Cefiro — JCI Apr 02, \$2,400 OBO. 633-9192.



MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. — Complete set of golf clubs, irons, woods and bag included, \$200 OBO. Scott, 645-6921 or 645-3051.
 Misc. — Rosewood endtable, \$198; small medicine chest, \$80; large brass kitchen baker's rack, \$85; toy box, \$30; child pool, \$30; and twin size cottage bed frame, \$125. 622-5178.
 Misc. — Oak entertainment center, \$400; (2) large rattan chairs w/cushions, \$75; computer desk, \$20; and generator still in box, \$600. Kris 633-0753.
 Misc. — Radio flyer wagon, \$50; crib, \$50; wildlife enc. \$50; leatherbound classics set, \$50; 5pc. luggage, \$50; microwave stand, \$40; and carseats, \$20. 646-5964.
 Misc. — Rooftop cargo carrier w/halogen driving lights, fits all vehicles, \$200; sherwood guages w/pressure, depth, temp and compass mounted in console, \$100. 956-7509.
 Misc. — Dress Blue Coat and Service Alpha Blouse size 34S, \$100 each; All Weather Coat size 34S, \$50; Dress Blue Trousers w/bloodstripe size 31R, \$25; and (3) Service Charlie Trousers size 30R, \$15 each. Wendell, 622-7262 or 622-6356.
 Computer — Pinnacle Micro 2x CDR drive, \$100. 888-1929.
 Misc. — (2) wastecans, \$3 each; (2) rugs, \$5 each; and blue/white pin-striped shower curtain, \$12. (2) phones, \$5 each; VHS movies, \$5 each; (3) brass pots, \$4 each; (2) fans, \$5 each; (2) wreaths, \$5 each; and (2) clay pots, \$2.50 each. Jen, 622-8412.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy, but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Coming to a theater near you ...



Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

Butler
 (645-3465)
 Fri The Exorcist (R); 7:00, 10:00
 Sat How the Grinch Stole X-Mas (PG); 1:00, 4:00
 Sun Pay It Forward (PG13); 7:00, 10:00
 Sun Meet the Parents (PG13); 7:00
 Mon Meet the Parents (PG13); 7:00
 Tue The Little Vampire (PG); 7:00
 Wed The Little Vampire (PG); 7:00
 Thu Miss Congeniality (PG13); 7:00

Schwab
 (625-2333)
 Fri Ladies Man (R)

Sat Lost Souls (R)
 Sat The Exorcist (R)
 Sun Lost Souls (R)
 Sun The Exorcist (R)
 Mon Miss Congeniality (PG13)
 Tue Miss Congeniality (PG13)
 Wed The Little Vampire (PG)
 Thu Pay it Forward (PG13)
 Call Schwab for start times

Courtney
 (622-9616)
 Fri Miss Congeniality (PG13); 7:00
 Sat 102 Dalmatians (G); 7:00
 Sun Bring It On (PG13); 7:00
 Mon Closed
 Wed The Little Vampire (PG); 1:00
 Wed Ladies Man (R); 7:00
 Thu Closed

Futenma
 (636-3890)
 Fri Remember the Titans (PG); 7:30
 Sat The Exorcist (R); 7:30
 Sun Ladies Man (R); 7:30
 Mon Vertical Limits (G); 7:30
 Tue Closed
 Wed What Women Want (G); 7:30
 Thu Closed

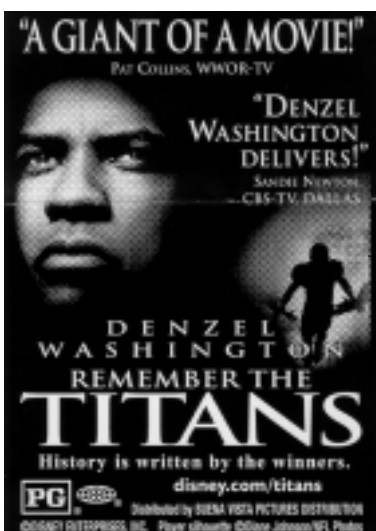
Keystone
 (634-1869)
 Fri Closed
 Sat The Little Vampire (PG); 1:00
 Sat Miss Congeniality (PG13); 5:30, 8:30
 Sun The Little Vampire (PG); 2:00
 Sun Miss Congeniality (PG13); 5:30
 Sun Lost Souls (R); 8:30
 Mon Nurse Betty (R); 7:00
 Tue Closed
 Wed Closed
 Thu Closed

Kinser
 (637-2177)
 Fri Ladies Man (R); 7:00
 Sat The little Vampire (PG); 3:00
 Sat Meet the Parents (PG13); 7:00, 11:30
 Sun Pay it Forward (PG13); 7:00
 Mon Closed
 Tue The Little Vampire (PG); 7:00
 Wed Miss Congeniality (PG13); 7:00
 Thu Pay it Forward (PG13); 7:00

Hansen
 (623-4564)
 Fri Unbreakable (R)
 Sat Unbreakable (R)
 Sun Pay it Forward (PG13)
 Mon Meet the Parents (PG13)
 Tue Meet the Parents (PG13)
 Wed The Watcher (R)
 Thu The Watcher (R)
 Call Hansen for start times



Check Hansen, Schwab and Kinser Theater listings for show times.



Check Futenma Theater listing for show times.



Check Hansen Theater listing for show times.